

# MAGSHIMON 25

## **FROM THE HEAD AND FROM THE HEART**

**"The Zionist Movement rests on fundamental principles of justice, equality and democracy, and objects to discrimination based on ethnic origin, nationality or race" (Paragraph 2A in the WZO Constitution)**

In light of this, the WZO always emphasizes, with just cause, its status as a democratic organization which incorporates all the political and religious streams in the Zionist Jewish world. This spirit is manifest in the World Zionist Congress, which convenes at least once in four years to elect its office bearers and set the Movement's course for the next four years.

And indeed, we are now coming up to a congress, which will take place in June 2006. The preparation committees are once again being established, and this time, we are committed to holding elections all over the world. To this end, we aim to register a large number of voters, at least 25% of whom will be young people. But the public is indifferent! The young people especially, refuse to believe that the next Congress will be different from the previous ones, and that it can have any impact on their lives.

As the founders of the State we have a responsibility to shape its image. It is intolerable that Israel should have the widest socio-economic gap in the Western world (after the United States), with an ever-growing number of poor people and soup kitchens. The way to adapt Zionism to the spirit of the times, and ensure its relevance, is to focus on its social vision. The Zionist Movement, with all its institutions, organizations and partners, should work to realize the Zionist social vision, which is expressed in Israel's Declaration of Independence. It should lead the struggle for social justice and complete socio-economic and civil rights for all Israeli citizens.

In preparation for the next Congress, we should bring proposals to change the priorities and structure of all the national institutions, enabling them to focus on Israeli society, promote justice rather than charity, and work towards terminating the occupation which is burdening both oppressor and oppressed. This will lift the Zionist Movement out of its current state of indifference and cynicism, and allow us to truly integrate the young generation – for they are not only our future, but also our present.

**Haim Hayet, Head of the *Hagshama* Department**

## **THE VOICE OF THE YOUNG**

### **I'm Going to Impact the Future of the Jewish People, Are You?**

It's so incredible when we are personally given an opportunity to impact the future... but how often does it really happen? Well, in the case of Jews in the Diaspora, every four years.

In June 2006, the World Zionist Organization will be having its 35<sup>th</sup> World Zionist Congress. The election preceding it is an opportunity for us young Jews all over the world to have a voice in the future of our state and our people.

Imagine, this year we can vote in the very same elections that were established by Herzl in 1897, before Israel even existed! Our generation grew up with the State of Israel, but let's not take it for granted. Our grandparents had the honor of building the state, but we have the opportunity to shape it.

Let's make this a year in which the young generation makes an impact. Let's make sure that this time, our voice is heard! Let's not leave our destiny to the decisions of others. Let's follow in the footsteps of our Zionist predecessors and take the future into our hands! We are the young generation, we should shape the future, after all we will be the ones living it! So don't wait until it's too late, register today for the World Zionist Congress and make your voice count! I've registered, have you?

**Anna Polishchuk, New York USD/Hagshama Regional Director**



Tamar Summer Camp in Ukraine

## **AUSTRALIA**

### **PERTH**

(Coordinator: **Shmoo Burnie**)

#### **Engage the Disengagement with *Hagshama!***

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, a group of young adults got together to "Engage the Disengagement" with Israeli educators from the Zionist Seminars (a project of the Jewish Agency for Israel). After a most informative presentation on the history of the Gaza settlements, the implications of the current demographic issues and arguments for and against the disengagement, the *Hagshama* crew found their way back to Shmoo's house for some informal chit-chat on current events. Special thanks to the participants of the Zionist Seminars, (a project of the Jewish Agency), who helped to provide such an excellent program.

#### ***Hagshama* and State Zionist Council screen "*Sof Ha'Olam Smolah*"**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, over 60 people came to the Carmel School Hall for a premiere showing of "*Sof Ha'Olam Smolah*", a heartwarming film about a group of Indian and Moroccan *olim* set in the 1960s. Over 60 people enjoyed this lovely film which has been recognized internationally as one of the best Israeli made films ever. Special thanks to the SZC of WA and our *Shaliach* **Hanan Steinfeld** for his help in organizing this event.

#### ***Hagshama* and SZC present prominent Israeli speaker**

*Hagshama* WA members were very privileged to have **Dr. Eli Karmon** lecture on issues of the "Strategic Influence of Terrorism in the Middle East and Worldwide". Dr. Karmon provided an insightful talk based on his many years of expertise working with NATO, the UN and the IDF.

### **MELBOURNE**

(Coordinator: **Yaron Daffan**)

#### **Advocafe and AUJS**

On September 6<sup>th</sup> *Hagshama* and AUJS (Australasian Union of Jewish Students) listened to the hilarious yet coherent advocate for Israel - **Neil Lazarus**. Living in the Diaspora, every Jew is confronted by the issue of advocating for Israel. What do we say? Does anyone really care? During the session, Neil used a well designed plan showing how to communicate a message and portray the truth about Israel in such a way that others can understand.

### ***HagshaMIC* 2005 – A gathering of Jewish Talent**

On September 19<sup>th</sup> more than 200 young adults gathered for the most amazing night of the year - ***HagshamMIC***, now in its second subsequent year. People from all facets of the community chose to take part in a celebration of art and talent. They were all brought together for a good night out in a forum aimed at expressing creativity. Amongst the performers we had rockin' musicians, mind boggling poets, hilarious comedians and amazing dancers. It was an enthusiastic venture planned and organized by the *Hagshama* Department and a substantial team of brilliant volunteers. For a grand finale, an Israeli band played famous Israeli songs followed by party vibes from the evening's DJ.

### **Mingling with the Authors**

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, *Hagshama's* Hebrew Cafe hosted famous Israeli author **Galila Ron Feder** and discussed the Hebrew language through the eyes of an author and editor. The participants heard about Galila's stories, adventures and her love for the language. The event was a real treat and an inspirational experience. "I am in love with the language, I also realize the responsibility I have as an author, being able to reach young adults and educating them about matters such as drugs, violence, alcoholism and suicide" said Galila. In her spare time she is a backpacker (yes, with a small bag, traveling all around the world), devoted reader (of course...) and especially loves Shai Agnon. This function was proudly sponsored by *Hagshama* and UIA.

### **Peace in the Streets – Community Rally**

Three hundred Jewish youth and young adults of Melbourne took to the streets on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to rally for 'Peace in The Streets' waving Israeli flags and bearing messages of peace. The march proceeded with a strong police presence including four mounted police keeping a watchful eye. Volunteers from the youth movements, AUJS and *Hagshama* interacted with the public throughout the walk, asking for written messages of peace which went on to form a backdrop to the later concert and mass balloon release on the steps of the State Library.

## SOUTH AFRICA

### CAPE TOWN

(Coordinator: **Carlo Valentini**)



Young Israeli Delegates at Hebrew Cafe

### **Israel – Our Personal Experiences**

Six young dynamic individuals, all educators specializing in informal education, visited Cape Town for two months (mid July–mid September) and facilitated *Hagshama's* Hebrew Café under the topic, 'Israel-Our Personal Experience'. After watching a short film on Israeli society today, a discussion ensued engaging different opinions in Israeli society and the current issues facing Israel. The aim of the Zionist Seminar Delegation, a project of the Jewish Agency, is to strengthen the connection and mutual responsibility between the Cape Town Jewish Community and Israel.

### ***Hagshama* Plays in Soccer League**

Eight teams were invited by Rabbi **Sackstein** to play in an indoor Soccer Shul League (31/7-25/9). This popular league is in its third year, and *Hagshama*, a first time entrant, had to confront these seasoned 'professionals'. The *Hagshama* team, facing more experienced opponents, had some trouble securing victories, however, they did manage to beat the League organizers.

### ***Hagshama* DrumCafe Outreach to Glendale**

*Hagshama* met with the DrumCafe at Glendale to offer the residents an opportunity to experience the fun and exhilaration of a Drumming Circle.

*Hagshama* recently invited the artists to join in an outreach event to Glendale Home for the intellectually disabled. The DrumCafé jumped at the opportunity to help out, meeting with several *Hagshama* members to form a drumming circle, which included the Glendale residents. The event was facilitated by **Kelly Schlesinger**, who gradually built up the slow rhythm until the Glendale residents were happily out of their chairs and dancing in the middle of the drumming circle.

### **Johannesburg**

#### ***Hagshama – EYAL (Young Adult Leadership) Shabbaton***

Chavershaft, fun and learning were the wonderful experiences of 47 potential leaders at the *Eyal – Hagshama* weekend organized by the SAZF, the *Hagshama* volunteers and the Israel Centre at Camp David over the weekend 16-18 September. Many of the participants were returnees from previous weekends and activities. Thought provoking issues were discussed, exploring individual and communal dilemmas. **Richard Summers**, newly arrived *Habonim Shaliach*, and **Lisa Hirshowitz** of the *Hagshama* committee facilitated these workshops, engendering lively discussion and interaction. Communal organizations were discussed: what exists in the Community; possible overlap, what is needed, and with whom they could identify.

#### ***EYAL – Hagshama the Barnyard***

Following closely on the EYAL weekend an evening was organized on September 20<sup>th</sup> at the Barnyard Theatre, attended by over 200 young people, including many who had been at the *Eyal Shabbaton*. The participants were enthralled by the music of the 80's in "Born To Run." In the discussion following the show, there was a positive vibe and a desire to be together and meet regularly. Pamphlets detailing Israel programs through the Israel Centre were distributed and a great time was had by all.

## **CROATIA - HUNGARY**

### **Hungarian *Kidma* Seminar in Croatia**

*Tnuat Kidma* from Hungary held its traditional annual seminar in Croatia. Twenty five young adults participated in this intensive seminar for activists from both countries.

From August 31<sup>st</sup> until September 7<sup>th</sup>, the participants discussed, learned and prepared programs for future activities related to activism, Zionism, *aliyah* and the future of the Jewish communities in Hungary and Croatia.

The seminar was supported by the *Hagshama* Department in Hungary.

## **NORTH AMERICA**

**USD/ Hagshama team: Ofer Gutman**, Representative, **Nomi Hirshman**, Project Manager NY; Regional Directors: **Anna Polishchuk**, (New York), **Nina Robinson** (Northeast), **Laura Siegel** (Midwest), **Sharon Dwek** (Northwest), **Gali Ben-Ami** (Southeast), **Daniel Roth** (Toronto, Canada).

### **"I'm a Zionist" Project Launched in NYC , Chicago, Boston and Miami**

An intimate gathering of Young Zionists came together on the evening of September 27<sup>th</sup> in a popular Chicago Israeli restaurant, to discuss modern Zionism and its relevance in their lives today.

The "I'm a Zionist" Forum was very passionate with varying opinions. This provided a great environment for discussion which moved from analysis of the roots of Zionism to modern day views, looking at current situations and debating diverse positions within the movement today.

A devoted group of young Zionist thinkers gathered in N.Y. on September 28<sup>th</sup> for the first session of the project "I'm a Zionist". **Dr. Sharonah Fredericko** facilitated the discussion which explored various philosophies of Zionism and their relevance to today's generation of young adults.

In Miami, fifteen young adults declared their commitment to the Zionist cause by joining together for an inspiring discussion about the origins of Zionism and their own role as current day Zionists. This group has committed to act together and take part in determining the future of Israel, Zionism and the Jewish people.

These roundtable discussions are part of a series, taking place all over North America in preparation for the World Zionist Congress in June 2006 .The groups will be meeting once a month with different topics in each session.

The project made its debut in Boston as well.

### **Voices from Israel: The Role of Young Leaders in Challenging Times**

Three young Israeli leaders with views from across the political spectrum visited university campuses in Vermont and Boston to discuss issues prevalent in Israeli society. The delegation visited four colleges and universities and participated in panel discussions on a wide variety of topics. The topics ranged from the Disengagement, to the paradox of Israel being both a Jewish and a democratic state, to what it's like to be part of the Israeli army. The Israelis engaged their audiences with their deep knowledge of everything Israel as well as their personal stories and opinions.

For some students who attended these events, this was their first exposure to anything related to Israel, and it was clear after each event that these impressive young Israelis had an impact on everyone they met.

These events were sponsored by the Israeli Council for the Exchange of Youth, USD/*Hagshama*, and the Consulate General of Israel in New England.

### **UPZ Conference Opens School Year**

Over 40 campuses were represented by more than 60 students at the Union of Progressive Zionists' 2nd annual conference for North American university students, in Baltimore, with the help of the *Hagshama* Department. Students from Canada and the U.S.A. flocked in to take part in programs and activities geared towards student leaders who are part of (and/or creating) Progressive Zionist Organizations on their campuses. There were a number of interactive programs and distinguished speakers at the conference. Among the speakers present were, **Dr. Leonard Fein**, **Haim Hayet**, Head of the *Hagshama* Department, **Yael Dayan** and **Guy Ben Dror**, *Hashomer Hatzair* U.S.A. *Shaliach*. The programs were geared to helping students to strengthen Progressive Zionist initiatives at their schools. All in all the weekend was a great success and a wonderful way to begin the school year.

### **USD/ *Hagshama* Staff Rocks with Jewsapalooza in New York City**

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, Riverside Park on the Upper West Side of Manhattan held New York's annual Jewsapalooza, a Jewish music festival. Among the various attractions was the USD/*Hagshama* - Israel Program Center booth which featured various resources and information on upcoming programs for young adults and college students. The USD staff greeted and mingled with Jews of all ages who were out to enjoy a day full of festivities, which included performances by British Kleismer rock band "Oy Vovoy" and popular Israeli singer Aviv Geffen.

### **Students In Miami Celebrate *Shabbat* Israeli Style**

150 Miami Students joined together at the local *Hillel* house to celebrate *shabbat* Israeli style with some traditional Israeli foods for dinner. Stepping into the Israeli themed decorated *Hillel* house you felt as though you were stepping into Israel.

### **MDA Fundraiser, "Swing For Peace" Rocks Chicago!**

On September 22<sup>nd</sup>, hundreds of young MDA (Magen David Adom) supporters flocked to "Sluggers" bar in Chicago's North side. The DJ span a wide variety of Israel music, the tables were topped with Israeli flags and flyers about upcoming events and the energy was extremely high! This year 250 people attended the event and the \$3800 that was raised will go to refurbish Magen David Adom stations around Israel. USD/*Hagshama's* Midwest Regional Director, **Laura Siegal** says: "I was personally really impressed with the energy and enthusiasm at the event despite the rainy weather; I was proud that *Hagshama* was a co-sponsor of such a wonderful event!"

### **USD/*Hagshama* and Russian *Hillel* Picnic - a Huge Success!**

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Israeli flags lined the perimeter of the Russian Student *Hillel* in Chicago. Russian Students from around the Chicago area mingled, snacked, played volleyball and had funny relay races! It was wonderful to see so many people come out and there was a great presence of new people as well! *Hagshama* was there with information about upcoming programs as well as short and long term programs available in Israel and of course, registration forms for the World Zionist Congress!

### **USD/*Hagshama* Team Meets in New York for Training**

On August 15th-19th, the North American *Hagshama* team gathered in New York City to discuss goals, agenda, and initiatives for the year. The intense five-day training seminar included sessions entitled "Out of the Box Programming", "I'm a Zionist", and "Who and What We Are." Special time and attention was also devoted to planning recruitment and promotional projects for the upcoming World Zionist Congress. The seminar was led by *Hagshama's* representative in North America, **Ofer Gutman** and attended by *Hagshama's* Director General, **Linda Futterman** from Israel.

## ISRAEL

### A Whirlwind Trip for Italians

A group of Jewish young adults from Rome came to Israel for an intensive 8 day seminar at the end of August. The seminar which was the conclusion of the year-long *Hasbara* course attended by the participants in Italy, took them to new horizons of thought and understanding. The group dealt with issues related to the Israeli-Arab conflict, toured the Jerusalem seam line and Wadi Ara area, met with Israeli and Italian journalists, representatives of the Ministry of foreign Affairs, followed Nili's story in *Zichron Ya'akov* and *Atlit*, visited a kibbutz and the Military Radio, and especially enjoyed the *Mayumana* show. The group met with a parent of a fallen soldier, a very special and moving encounter. Ambassador **Avi Pazner**, World Chairman of *Keren Hayesod* welcomed the participants of the program. The seminar was supported by the *Hagshama* Department, the Committee for Combating Anti-Semitism of the W.Z.O. and *Keren Hayesod*, Italy.

### CIJO Does It Again!!



This is the fourth consecutive year in which young adults from CIJO Holland have come to Israel for a *Hasbara* Seminar. The group dealt with issues related to the Israeli-Arab conflict, toured the Jerusalem seam line, the areas where the freshly evacuated settlers from *Gush Katif* live and *Wadi Ara* area, met with Israeli and Dutch journalists,

representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, relatives of terror victims, the author **Etgar Keret** and Israeli students, participated in workshops dealing with hands-on *Hasbara* tools and a panel of opposing views of Israeli politics. The participants especially enjoyed the *Mayumana* show.

The program was a joint production of the *Hagshama* Department, the Committee for Combating Anti-Semitism of the W.Z.O. and the Education Department of the Jewish Agency.

### ***Hagshama-ZFA-AZYC Leadership Course Prepares for Final Seminar***

For a number of years the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA) in partnership with the Australian Zionist Youth Council (AZYC) together with the *Hagshama* Dept. of the WZO have been organizing a Leadership Course for participants from Australia and NZ on *Shnat* programs.

The weekend held on August 5-8, facilitated by educator **Steve Israel** was devoted to political leadership as well as personal leadership in social action organizations, with a visit to the new Menachem Begin Heritage Center. This was followed by a briefing by **Professor Naomi Chazan** and a session with **Sari Rifkin**, Executive Director of *Yedid*. The participants of the Leadership Training Course will be organizing an end of year seminar, for all *Shnat* participants (attendance is voluntary) to be held after *Succot*.

### ***Kidma World Seminar for Bogrim***

The *Kidma* World Seminar was held in Israel between July 31 and August 15. Fifty *bogrim* from around the world, including Israel, participated in this important annual event which was held in *Givat Haviva*.

The young adults discussed various ideological issues related to *Kidma* and attended workshops related to the world movement within the Jewish communities. **Haim Hayet**, Head of the *Hagshama* Department was one of the speakers during the seminar. The seminar was supported by the *Hagshama* Department.



**Haim Hayet  
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Verónica Ronen**

**Head of the Department  
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**With the Support of:**



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